

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-34 were previously pending in the present application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-34 have been rejected.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-6, 8, 11, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent Publication No. 5,682,439 to Beernink *et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "Beernink").

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because each and every element set forth in Claims 1-6, 8, 11, and 33 is not found in Beernink, either expressly nor inherently described. Specifically, Beernink does not describe systems or methods performed by a handwriting recognition devices for "comparing the handwritten pattern to a plurality of templates, wherein each of the plurality of templates represents at least one of a plurality of handwriting symbol patterns of handwritten ways of hand writing symbols, and returning a best template selected from the plurality of templates that represents one of the

plurality of handwriting symbol patterns as a best handwriting symbol pattern which, according to a predefined rule, is most similar to the handwritten pattern, wherein at least two of the plurality of templates comprise different ones of the plurality of handwriting symbol patterns which represent different handwritten ways of handwriting a single symbol."

Beernink involves methods of correcting words entered into a pointer-based computer user interface. Beernink describes that:

"[o]ne aspect teaches a correction method for when the selected word is the string of one or more well defined characters and the correction input is a character editing input overwriting a given box. This correction method includes the steps of receiving a ranked character list of one or more well defined characters corresponding to possible characters which the character editing input may represent, reordering the ranked character list based on a format of the boxed input corrector and a guess list of characters which the box input corrector has previously suggested for the given box, removing any characters from the ranked character list which are not suitable for the given box, and replacing a current character associated with the given box with a highest ranked character found in the ranked character list."

However, Beernink does not involve single symbols within the "list of characters" that are composed of "different *handwritten* ways of *handwriting* a single symbol (emphasis added)," as recited by Claims 1 and 33.

Within the Office Action, the Examiner suggests further limiting Claim 1 to explicitly require that the "single symbols" be composed of different "handwritten ways of writing a specific symbol. The Applicants thank the Examiner graciously for his suggestion and agree that said limitation distinguishes Beernink.

Claims 1 and 33, as currently amended, recite this limitation explicitly and Claims 2-6, 8, and 11 contain the limitation by reference to Claim 1. For at least this reason, Claims 1-6, 8, 11, and 33 are not anticipated by Beernink.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Beernink in view of Sparr

Also within the Office Action, Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beernink in view of United States Patent publication no. 2001/0026639 to Sparr *et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "Sparr").

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claimed features must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, because neither Beernink nor Sparr, either alone or in combination, disclose all of the limitations of Claim 7.

Specifically neither Beernink nor Sparr teach or suggest systems or methods performed by a handwriting recognition devices for "comparing the handwritten pattern to a plurality of templates, wherein each of the plurality of templates

represents at least one of a plurality of handwriting symbol patterns of handwritten ways of hand writing symbols, and returning a best template selected from the plurality of templates that represents one of the plurality of handwriting symbol patterns as a best handwriting symbol pattern which, according to a predefined rule, is most similar to the handwritten pattern, wherein at least two of the plurality of templates comprise different ones of the plurality of handwriting symbol patterns which represent different handwritten ways of handwriting a single symbol."

As explained above, Beernink does not involve single symbols composed of different handwritten ways of writing a specific symbol. Likewise, Sparr does not teach this limitation.

Sparr involves a method of character recognition comprising detecting inputted characters entered in a pressure sensitive display wherein the coordinates for a series of points of the input are recorded, preprocessing the characters using the coordinates and a series of transformations, comparing the processed characters to a database of known characters, and deciding whether the processed characters are included in the database. However, Sparr does not involve detecting different ways of handwriting one particular character, nor does the Examiner suggest that it does.

On the contrary, Claim 7 recites this limitation by reference to Claim 1. For at least this reason, Claim 7 is not rendered obvious in light of a hypothetical combination of Beernink and Sparr.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Beernink in view of Kadashevich

Finally, within the Office Action, Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beernink in view of United States Patent No. 5,970,170 to Kadashevich *et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "Kadashevich"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, because neither Beernink nor Kadashevich, either alone or in combination, disclose all of the limitations of Claim 7.

Specifically neither Beernink nor Kadashevich teach or suggest systems or methods performed by a handwriting recognition devices for "comparing the handwritten pattern to a plurality of templates, wherein each of the plurality of templates represents at least one of a plurality of handwriting symbol patterns of handwritten ways of hand writing symbols, and returning a best template selected from the plurality of templates that represents one of the plurality of handwriting symbol patterns as a best handwriting symbol pattern which, according to a predefined rule, is most similar to the handwritten pattern, wherein at least two of the plurality of templates comprise different ones of the plurality of handwriting symbol patterns which represent different handwritten ways of handwriting a single symbol."

As explained above, Beernink does not involve single symbols composed of different handwritten ways of writing a specific symbol. Likewise, Kadashevich does not teach this limitation.

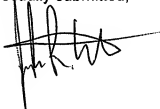
Kadashevich involves a character recognition system involving identification of scanned and real time handwritten characters represented by a bitmap. However, Kadashevich does not involve detecting different ways of handwriting one particular character, nor does the Examiner suggest that it does.

On the contrary, Claim 17 recites this limitation by reference to Claim 15. For at least this reason, Claim 17 is not rendered obvious in light of a hypothetical combination of Beernink and Kadashevich.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully posits that the pending claims have been distinguished from the art of record, and that all objections to and rejections of the claims have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance. Should the Examiner deem it helpful he is encouraged to contact Applicant's attorney, at (650) 474-8400.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Weatherbee', with a large, sweeping horizontal stroke across the middle.

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